The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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None are fit judges of greatness but those who are capable of it.—Bossuet.

WHOLE NO. 1053. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1931 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 21, NO. 14.

JAMES P. EGAN

James P. Egan, editor of the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service, died in Riverdale, Maryland, Sunday evening, June 7, 1931. While crossing a street in the vicinity of his home, he was struck by an automobile and instantly killed.

Mr. Egan was born in Longmeadow, Mass., in 1868. He spent his early life in Ionia, Michigan, where he served his apprenticeship as a printer. For some time he was an employee of the Detroit Free Press.

In 1888 he went to Toledo, Ohio, and worked as a compositor on Toledo newspapers for a number of years.

He was president of the Toledo Central Labor Union and of Toledo Typographical Union No. 63 for several terms.

With the cooperation of the Toledo Typographical Union he founded the Toledo Union Leader, the official organ of the Toledo Central Labor Union, and became its editor.

In Toledo he established his reputation as an effective speaker and strong writer in behalf of trade unionism. It was in Toledo that labor journalism as a permanent occupation attracted him.

In 1909, he married Miss Bessie Mills.

His virile journalistic ability drew the attention of the officials of the A. F. of L. They called him to Washington in 1913 to edit the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service, in which capacity he worked until his death.

He also contributed special articles to a number of American and British trade union journals and labor papers.

The funeral services were held at St. Patrick's Church, Washington, D. C., on Wednesday morning, July 10, at nine o'clock. The pallbearers were: Frank Morrison, Secretary, American Federation of Labor; William J. Spencer, Secretary - Treasurer, Building Trades Department; John P. Frey, Secretary-Treasurer, Metal Trades Department; Frank J. Coleman, Secretary, Washington, D. C., Central Labor Union; F. C. Roberts, representing Typographical Union No. 101; Edward F. McGrady, Legislative Committeeman, American Federation of Labor.

VETERAN LABOR EDITOR DEAD

JAMES P. EGAN
Born 1868 Died 1931

Officials of the national and international trade unions with headquarters in Washington and representatives of local and outside trade unions were present. The interment was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington, D. C. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Bessie Egan; one son, James Patrick Egan, 13 years old, and a sister, Mrs. Jack Killeen of Los Angeles, California.

From his years of experience in trade unionism, Mr. Egan acquired a vast fund of information which made him exceptionally valuable to the labor movement and the labor press. He possessed unusual ability in condensing into small compass the substance of news, which enabled him to cover a large field in limited space.

Mr. Egan knew American institutions. He was a positive defender of the fundamental liberties which underlie them.

During his eighteen years of service as editor of the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service he fought every attempt to curtail human liberty, and was one of labor's most zealous opponents of the tyranny imposed by labor injunctions and similar forms of autocratic control.

His conclusions were based on solid reasoning, and won universal respect.

To him the labor movement was more than wages and hours. It was the medium for the development of spiritual values far transcending improvement in material conditions.

In trade unions he saw schools of citizenship for training the workers in the meaning and spirit of liberty as enunciated in the Declaration of Independence, which to him was a vital thing to be expressed in the activity of every citizen.

Mr. Egan's life was closed in the midst of his work. With the exception of the editorial leader, he turned in his last copy for this issue of the Weekly News Service on Saturday, June 6.

He planned to write the editorial Monday morning. He did not write it. When Monday came his eyes were closed, and his mind silent in the sleep that endures forever. This tribute to his life takes the place of the editorial.

In the height of his work, with his zeal for Labor undiminished, he was stricken down.

But the service which he rendered in interpreting Labor's fundamental principles is his outstanding achievement. It will endure as his lasting monument.

Green Attacks Unemployment; Relief Measures Outlined

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., June 13.—"Unemployment is the most vital and acute problem of the Nation today," declared William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an address before the Unemployment and Economic Conference held under the auspices of Rutgers University. "In a most serious way it affects the home, the community, the State and the Nation. The happiness and social wellbeing of millions of our people depends upon a rational, sound, constructive solution of this difficult question."

"The primary need of the Nation," President Green pointed out, "is to develop and encourage the buying power of all classes of people. We cannot manufacture and transport goods until we have first created a market for the sale and use of goods. Such a market can only be made active when people are encouraged to buy and use freely goods which industry manufactures and produces. How does this line of reasoning and logic apply to the present situation? There are more than six million people unemployed. They, with their dependents, number approximately 20,000,000.

"Unemployment has destroyed the purchasing power of this unusually large number of consuming units. The individual who is employed does not buy and consume to his full capacity because of the uncertainty of his employment. Those who are fortunate enough to be employed full time feel they are menaced by a threatened curtailment of their purchasing power through a demand made from various sources that reductions in wages shall take place or through discharge or enforced part-time employment. This curtailment of buying power has reached those who are able to buy and whose income is not affected by unemployment. They, too, are practicing a policy of economy, buying less and using less.

"This situation, so serious in its effect, should be dealt with in a practical and constructive way.

"First of all, those who are employed should be given assurance that their services would not be dispensed with, that they would remain secure in the possession of their work. This security can be assured by the management of industry.

"A public work policy could be formulated and announced, through which those now employed could be guaranteed a share of all work available. This would mean that instead of discharging workers management should arrange the work-week and the number of hours worked per day so as to give each worker now employed an equal share of all work available.

"The announcement of this policy should be supplemented by a further announcement that as rapidly as possible those who are idle would be re-employed. Such a public work policy might involve the adjustment of working time and the adoption and execution of plans which would bring about an equitable division of the limited amount of employment which existing market conditions afford.

"Obviously, such a plan and such a policy would tend to restore confidence and buying morale. The worker, assured of work security, would immediately extend his buying power to its maximum limit. When the fear of losing work is removed the buying power of the worker is increased and exercised. He will not only use his buying power as represented by his pay earnings but he will also utilize all available credit facilities in order to satisfy, so far as possible, his material and social needs.

"The development and active use of the buying power of this great group of employed workers would have an electrifying effect. It would influence those who are able to buy but who refuse to buy. Through such a process the market would be stimulated so that gradually at least a large portion of the millions who are now unemployed would be given work. It would be dramatic in its consequences and powerful in its results.

"With this effort put forth by the management of private industry and private enterprise, supplemented by a speeding-up of the public building and construction program, as authorized by Congress, improvement in the industrial situation ought to be quite noticeable within a reasonable length of time."

GOVERNMENT BY LAW SUSTAINED WHEN COURT VOIDED PAPER GAG

Washington, June 13.—"The United States Supreme Court's annulment of the Minnesota newspaper 'gag' law upholds the best traditions of our conception of government under a Constitution," said United States Senator Shipstead.

The law empowered equity courts to perpetually enjoin any publication the court considered a nuisance. In setting aside this power of equity, the Supreme Court held that criminal and civil law of Minnesota gives the plaintiff ample protection.

Senator Shipstead, in commenting on the court's decision, said:

"I believe in a government by law administered by courts of law with a jury. Under our system the legislative body defines the crime and prescribes a penalty. The question of guilt is determined by a jury. That constitutes a remedy at law. A restraining order should not be issued where there is a remedy at law, and no legislative body should delegate jurisdiction to an equity judge to issue injunctions where there is a remedy at law.

"As government by injunction increases, government by law passes away. The constant encroachment of courts of equity upon the provinces of courts of law, often by legislative authority, is one of the most dangerous trends of recent times in this country.

"I hope the Supreme Court, which in this case struck at a legislative act, will in the future follow the same rule when cases come to it on appeal from inferior courts where the injunctive process has not legislative sanction, as for instance in labor injunctions, where the same principle of constitutional guarantee is involved.

"Equity judges have violated this rule on the ground that the laws of trespass and police regulations do not furnish an adequate and complete remedy. When the Minnesota Legislature passed the so-called 'newspaper gag law' they did it on the ground that the libel laws did not furnish a complete remedy, possibly on the grounds that trials for violation of libel laws included trial by jury.

"Injunctions have been issued in labor disputes because judges have held and petitioners have claimed that the remedy at law was not adequate or complete. The decision of the Supreme Court holds in the Minnesota case that the remedy at law is adequate and complete as to libels. It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that police regulations and laws on trespass will be held an adequate and complete remedy in the light of the same rule."

COAL MINERS STARVE; UNIONISM DRIVEN OUT

Indianapolis, June 13.—The coal industry is paying the predicted costly price for its anti-union policy during the past few years, according to reports to headquarters of the United Mine Workers.

Conditions of these unorganized workers, especially in Alabama, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania, is unbelievable. Miners in these States are starving while operators have driven prices to a point where it is cheaper to cease operations. Governor Kilby of Alabama bankrupted that State when he turned the militia over to operators to break the Miners' Union. The State was overrun with armed desperadoes and the union was smashed. Miners are now begging for food to sustain life.

The Pittsburgh Press assigned one of its correspondents to the Western Pennsylvania field. The newspaper man wrote:

"A struggle for existence is being waged by residents of mine towns in Western Pennsylvania. Ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed families are battling against hunger. They are living from hand to mouth."

Miners in the Scott's Run field, West Virginia, suspended work as a final protest against starvation wages. Rates average $1.50 a day—when the miner works.

The Morgantown (W. Va.) Post recently stated: "The situation on Scott's Run is one that must arouse the sympathy and pity of every person who has any knowledge of existing conditions. Nobody can blame the miners for protesting against wages that are not wages at all. If all the operators on Scott's Run, for example, would get together, they would end this cut-throat competition that is constantly pushing wages lower and lower."

POVERTY OF IDEAS

The New York State Economic Council revealed the poverty of ideas and courage of men who are faced with present day conditions.

The Council favored eight plans to relieve the depression. The first was "economy in public expenditure, comparable with the economy exercised by private enterprise."

The government was called upon to abandon its "business ventures," and this State was urged to advertise for tourists. Revision of the Federal anti-trust laws was favored and "there should be equality of opportunity between the several methods of transportation by rail, by water, by motor and by air.

"Unemployment reserves" was favored and State or National unemployment insurance was frowned on. Public utilities should be held accountable "for efficiency or service and reasonableness of rates."

These are the solutions of men when there are at least 6,000,000 unemployed and at least 15,000,000 hungry men, women and children in this country.

Could anything be more pathetic than this poverty of ideas held by men who consider that they should be given serious consideration?

Workers Face New Problems; Short Working Hours Stressed

Kansas City, Mo., June 13.—"The wage earners of this country are in the most critical period of their history," declared W. E. Bryan and John J. Pfeiffer, general president and general secretary-treasurer United Leather Workers' International Union, in a message on present day conditions that has been forwarded to affiliates.

"A veritable revolution in industry is rapidly taking place before your eyes," say the unionists, in plea that unions be strengthened and that the five-day week and six-hour day be assured.

"In the short period of 10 years, following the close of the war, the 80-year-old problem of peace-time production had been more than solved. Industrial managers, blind to the inevitable result, produced more and more, trusting to luck and borrowing large amounts of money upon warehouse stocks. The same was true of farmers and stock raisers. Grain elevators and cold storage plants were stocked with surpluses far beyond the requirements of home consumption, with foreign markets restricted to their ability to buy. A 10-year-old school boy should know that such an orgy could not survive.

"The development of new and improved machinery and processes will continue, the need for manpower will grow less and less. There will be new industries created that will to some extent absorb the displaced labor, but far short of the requirement for gainful employment for all, if left to the charity and determination of financial and industrial interests.

"There is only one method whereby you can retain or advance the American standard of living—by active participation in the affairs of your union, and organize the unorganized that workers will be able to force the five-day week and the six-hour day."

NEW SOCIAL ORDER PREDICTED BY CRAM

Bryn Mawr, Pa., June 13.—The world is at the end of one social era and is at the theshold of a new social order, said Ralph Adams Cram, noted architect, in a commencement address at Bryn Mawr College.

Mr. Cram said many things indicated the passing of the present era. There is an increasing questioning and abandoning of standards hundreds of years old, and there is the "breakdown of industrial civilization with an attendant increase of capitalism and mass production," he said.

The greatest contributing cause of all he characterized as the "progressive abandonment of an age-old scheme of personal ethics, honored if imperfectly enforced."

Modernism, he held, was "merely a fad, a fancy, which shall pass away." Civilization, he said, needed to return to the earlier forms of beauty wherein all mankind was co-creator and co-participant instead of merely disinterested onlookers.

"YELLOW DOG" BILL VOID, SAYS COURT

Boston, June 13.—The State Legislature can not outlaw the "yellow dog," ruled the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

This question was referred by the last Legislature to this court, which has power to make advisory opinions. The court said that such a law would deprive a person of the right to make contracts, and is, therefore, against public policy.

"The dominating purpose," it was held, "appears to be class legislation and to impair equality before the law and equal protection of equal laws to all persons."

The bill would also remove from courts the power to issue injunctions to enforce the "yellow dog." This provision, said the Supreme Judicial Court, would narrow to an unconstitutional extent the power of courts to deal with contempt of court in connection with litigation in labor disputes.

AIR MAIL COST UP

Washington, June 13.—The government cost of air mail increased from $765,549 in 1926 to $20,015,969 in 1930.

These air lines, last year, also received an additional $5,761,151 from passengers and express carried.

This expenditure, together with the millions of dollars given to shipowners as mail subsidies, are two major causes for the post office deficit.

FEDERAL FARM BOARD STOPS BUYING WHEAT

Washington, June 13.—The Federal Farm Board has ceased buying wheat, which was purchased to hold prices. The value of this policy has been questioned.

The board's venture leaves the government in possession of 200,000,000 bushels of wheat, with a loss of $90,000,000. Monthly carrying charges of $4,000,000 must be added until some disposition is made of these holdings.

The wheat can not be thrown on the market, as prices would tumble. Farm board officials state that the wheat will be marketed in an "orderly manner at satisfactory prices" if farmers reduce their winter wheat acreage next fall.

The Department of Agriculture states that the present average price of wheat is 59.9 cents per bushel, or about 32 per cent less than a year earlier.

All farm prices, it is stated, have reached the lowest point since the department began in 1910 to keep records which are comparable

FEDERAL BOND ISSUE HEAVILY OVERBOUGHT

Washington, June 13.—The Treasury's offering of $800,00,000 bonds to partly meet a billion-dollar deficit, has been oversubscribed sevenfold.

More than $6,000,000,000 in bids were received when the bids were closed. The bonds will bear 3¼ per cent. They are exempt from state and national taxes, except inheritance taxes.

The bond issue will be pro-rated among applicants, who are the country's largest bankers. The excessive bids indicate the large amount of idle capital in the country.

NEGRO IN INDUSTRY SHOWS LARGE GAINS

Washington, June 13.—A marked increase of negroes to northern industrial centers is disclosed in figures compiled by the Census Bureau.

The shift has been largely from rural sections to urban centers. Many industrial centers in the South show a marked gain in negro population from 1920 to 1930, the chief loss being in rural communities.

In Delaware, Maryland, Michigan and Missouri the negro population increased faster than did the white. This is also true in such industrial cities as Philadelphia, Akron, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Detroit, Kansas City, St. Louis, Baltimore and Flint, Mich.

HUDDELL'S DEATH IS HELD NATURAL

Washington, June 13.—A coroner's jury found that Arthur M. Huddell, president International Union of Operating Engineers, died from "natural causes" in a local hospital, following his collapse after being shot at by a gunman. The bullet was stopped by a memorandum in a left side pocket of the unionist's coat.

Evidence at the inquest showed that Huddell suffered severe nervousness as a result of the shooting. He had a cerebral hemorrhage and collapsed in his office.

Frank E. Langdon, editor of the Engineers' Journal, who was shot in the right eye by the assailant, is recovering. The gunman escaped.

Chelsea, Mass., June 13.—The funeral of Arthur M. Huddell, president International Union of Operating Engineers, was one of the largest in the history of the trade union movement. Burial was at Salem. The A. F. of L. Executive Council was represented by Secretary Frank Morrison and Vice Presidents Matthew Woll, John Coefield and G. M. Bugniazet.

The Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., of which Huddell was first vice president, was represented by President M. J. McDonough and Secretary-Treasurer William J. Spencer. The Metal Trades Department was represented by Secretary-Treasurer John P. Frey.

MARTIN T. JOYCE DIES

Boston, Mass., June 13.—Martin T. Joyce, secretary-treasurer and legislative agent of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, died at his home in this city. He was born July 28,1877. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers since 1905, former president of the Boston Central Labor Union, president of local union No. 103 of the Electrical Workers for a number of years, and a delegate to the American Federation of Labor conventions since 1918.

Joyce was an active and forceful representative of organized labor in Massachusetts for over thirty years.

WAGES ARE REDUCED ON U. S. PAYROLLS

Washington, June 13.—The prevailing wage scale is not recognized on construction work at the West Point Military Academy, said Congressman Fish in a protest to the President.

Mr. Fish said some laborers on this work were paid as low as 40 per cent below the union rate. He insists on the enforcement of the Davis-Bacon law, passed by the last Congress.

Tuscon, Ariz., June 13.—Carpenters employed on the veterans' hospital here are being paid below the prevailing wage. A joint committee, representing organized labor, the Chamber of Commerce and the American Legion wired a protest to Washington.

"If this contractor can pay a low wage scale it will establish new standards which will be detrimental to construction payrolls in this community, resulting in serious conditions because of prevailing unemployment," the committee said.

TEACHERS TO MEET; FACE MANY ISSUES

Chicago, June 13.—The fifteenth annual convention of the American Federation of Teachers will be held in this city June 29-July 3.

Reports and resolutions will be presented bearing on topics vital to the welfare of teachers, children and the community. Other subjects will include: Size of classes, contract system and tenure, married women teachers, class teachers in excess of classes, teacher certification, general unemployment, school finance, credit unions, group insurance, academic freedom, international relations, educational policy, the crime situation in municipalities and social and economic trends.

John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer Metal Trades Department A. F. of L., will represent William Green, president A. F. of L. Mr. Frey will speak on "Our Economic Crisis."

ALIEN SMUGGLING BLAMED ON SEAMEN

New York, June 13.—Federal officials claim to have broken a syndicate which has smuggled thousands of Chinese into this country.

A score of Chinese were found on one vessel, whose owners and officers have been cleared of blame. Members of the crew, who were paid from $500 to $1,000 a head, are responsible.

The government officials solemnly declare that the officers and owners know nothing of the transactions that were proving a gold mine to the crew. These seamen, the public is assured, smuggled 20 and 30 Chinese aboard, while the owners and officers of the boat remained in child-like ignorance of the deal.

TO STUDY PENSION PLAN

Springfield, Ill., June 13.—The State Legislature passed a bill to create a commission to study old age pensions. The bill is a substitute for an old age pension bill introduced in the Senate.

BAN ON RED OUTPUT URGED BY BUSINESS

New York, June 13.—An embargo on imports from Soviet Russia and opposition to the exportation of industrial machinery to the Soviet government was favored by the New York State Chamber of Commerce. The vote of the 300 members was practically unanimous.

The resolution declared that the importation of Soviet commodities is detrimental to the public interest and should be discontinued.

"We deplore the exportation of industrial equipment and the extension of technical advice to the rulers of Russia, which is in effect giving aid to elements seeking to destroy the economic and political systems under which we live, and is, therefore, wholly unjustified on political, economic, social and moral grounds," the resolution states.

PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN BACKED BY UNIONISTS

Albany, N. Y., June 13.—A public health bill, before the State Legislature, is favored by the New York Federation of Labor, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Order of Railway Conductors.

The bill was drafted by Governor Roosevelt's Special Public Health Commission. It sets up well-staffed county health departments, preserves local control, assures efficient medical and nursing service and provides for additional hospitals to accommodate larger number of curable patients.

MUST WATCH SIGNALS IS ENGINEER'S DUTY

Albany, N. Y., June 13.—The Court of Appeals ruled that a locomotive engineer has "the primary duty to operate his train and to keep alert for signals," rather than be on the lookout for workmen along the tracks, where a watchman is employed to warn employes of approaching trains.

The decision was made in a suit for damages by the heirs of a worker who was killed.

Witnesses testified that there was nothing to prevent the worker from observing the approach of the train and that others heeded the warning of a watchman when he blew his whistle.

FOOD LABELS IGNORED

Washington, June 13.—A tendency to ignore both the spirit and letter of the Federal Food and Drugs Act has developed recently in certain sections of the food trade, according to the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

"It is extremely rare," said Dr. Frisbie, "to find an instance where net weight statement does not appear on food in package form, but not at all unusual to find the statement as to quality of contents either in faintly legible or small type, not always on the main label and all too frequently obscured by legends or pictorial designs."

$5,000,000 RELIEF VOTED IN WISCONSIN

Madison, Wis., June 13.—The Fons-Goodland unemployment relief bill, appropriating $5,000,000 of State funds and increasing the normal income tax by one-third, passed the Senate. The measure has been debated, delayed and amended for four months.

The money will be pro rated to the counties and the funds may be expended either for direct relief or for wages on public works. The funds will be administered by the various political units in the counties.

Senator Morris contended that the relief would retard the work of various community funds by making it difficult for them to collect funds. He read a telegram from the Milwaukee Community Fund to the effect that contributors to its $1,250,000 drive will not give money if an additional income tax were levied against them.

"This bill would cost me about $100 and would make me cut out donations to charitable causes," Morris stated.

Senator Loomis replied that the statement and the telegram "displayed the attitude of wealth toward unemployment."

HEARING RESISTED BY RADIO COMBINE

Washington, June 13.—The radio trust, fighting for its life, has asked the District of Columbia Supreme Court to enjoin the Federal Radio Commission from holding hearings that may jeopardize its 1,400 licenses.

The commission has taken cognizance of the United States Supreme Court's refusal to review decisions of lower courts which held that the Radio Corporation of America violated the Clayton anti-trust law. The trust compelled independent manufacturers to use the trust's patents.

The hearings would result in "irreparable injury," the plaintiffs allege.

CHAIN STORES TAXED

Madison, Wis., June 13.—The State Assembly passed a chain-store tax bill that is modeled after the Indiana law recently upheld by the United States Supreme Court. The tax ranges from $3 on one store to $50 on each store in excess of 30.

REJECT "YELLOW DOG"

Chicago, June 13.—An attempt to establish the "yellow dog" in the upholstering industry was successfully resisted by Upholsterers' Union No. 9. Employers withdrew their demand and renewed the old agreement.

"FILIPINOS FIRST" IN U. S. VESSELS

San Francisco, June 13.—"Filipinos first" is the War Department's policy in manning army transports, while American seamen seek work, declares the Seamen's Journal in a leading editorial.

"At the same time this is written two United States army transports are in San Francisco harbor," says the labor paper. "The transports are manned by Filipinos.

"While President Hoover's Emergency Committee for Employment publishes various bulletins outlining devious methods for the lessening of unemployment, the War Department gives preference in employment to Filipinos while American seamen wearily tread the beach vainly looking for jobs.

"When the Jones-White act was pending in Congress the cheap labor champions attempted to amend the bill so as to make Filipinos eligible as citizens for the purpose of manning subsidized merchants vessels. Congress declined to grant that privilege.

"Army transports receive a heavier subsidy than any other craft afloat. In fact, their entire cost of operation is borne by American taxpayers. And in the face of all this, arrogant American Army officers insist upon maintaining their established policy: 'Filipinos first.'"

CHILD EDUCATION IS GOLF BALL COST

Washington, June 13.—Sixty cents, the price of a pound of candy or a single golf ball, buys one day's education for a child in the average public school, according to figures released by the Federal Office of Education.

Statistics from a representative group of American cities show that the total average annual cost per child for teachers' services for nine months, for heat, janitor service and, in most instances, school supplies, books and library facilities, is $108.87.

Since instruction costs, which include teachers' salaries, books and the library, make up three-fourths of total school costs, the city child gets the service of trained teachers and useful textbooks for approximately 47 cents per day or 8 cents per hour.